

Floods kill 19 in Soviet Union

MOSCOW (AP) — Torrential rains and mudslides destroyed a dam in southern Tadzhikistan on Monday, killing 19 people and leaving nine others missing, the TASS news agency reported. Another six people were hospitalized in serious condition, the official Soviet agency said. It said that after heavy rain and mudslides destroyed the dam, water from a reservoir swept through the village of Sarjazan. TASS reported from the Dangara region near the border with Afghanistan that "a critical situation has taken shape" in the Kutyab and Dangara agricultural areas. "Today in the morning mudflow destroyed a dam of the Sarjazan water reservoir," the agency said. "A water mass fell upon the village of Sarjazan." The agency reported 53 houses, a livestock-breeding farm and a poultry farm were swept away. "Bridges and a railroad section were destroyed, communication was disrupted. Part of the crops were washed away," it said. "Nineteen people were killed. Six people were brought to the hospital in grave condition. Nine people are reported missing." TASS reported.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordanian Arab Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الزاي»

Poindexter may get immunity

WASHINGTON (R) — Congressional investigators of the Iran arms scandal have agreed tentatively to grant immunity from prosecution for President Reagan's former National Security Advisor John Poindexter, congressional sources said Monday. Vice-Admiral Poindexter would be the highest ranking official to be granted immunity in the scandal involving arms sales to Iran in 1985-86 to free hostages held in Lebanon and diversion of profits to U.S.-backed rebels in Nicaragua, at a time when such aid would have been illegal. The sources said the chief counsels of the two special congressional committees probing the episode that has gripped the Reagan presidency in its worst crisis plan to take their accord to court-appointed special prosecutor Lawrence Walsh. Adm. Poindexter and his fired deputy at the National Security Council, Lieutenant-Colonel Oliver North, have refused to testify before investigators because of the risk of self incrimination. The tentative accord follows weeks of negotiating with Mr. Walsh and committee members.

Volume 12 Number 3426

AMMAN, TUESDAY MARCH 17, 1987, RAJAB 17 1407

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

JCO plans JD 2.2m project

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO) will set up five projects for fattening sheep at a cost of JD 2,200,000 to be financed partly by the JCO and partly by the European Investment Bank through a JD 1 million loan. The projects, which will be set up in Maifraq, Tufleeh, Karak, Irbid and Zarqa governorates, are aimed at increasing the production of lamb meat. JCO Director General Mreiwed Al Tal on Monday met with a delegation from the European Investment Bank and discussed with them implementation of the project.

Jordan to be nominated to WHA

KHARTOUM (Petra) — The Council of Arab Health Ministers on Monday decided to nominate Jordan as member of the World Health Assembly's (WHA) executive board for a three-year term, beginning in May. During a three-day meeting in Sudan, the council discussed a number of health, technical and medical subjects pertinent to the Arab World and endorsed joint health programmes.

Weinberger begins visit to Spain

MADRID (R) — U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger held talks on Monday with Spanish leaders who are demanding sharp cuts in U.S. forces stationed at four bases in Spain. Mr. Weinberger insisted he had not come to bargain on the controversial issue but to discuss a wide range of bilateral and North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) matters with Defence Minister Narcis Serra. He paid a courtesy call on King Juan Carlos before meeting Mr. Serra and was due to see Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, who last year won a referendum to keep Spain in NATO on condition that U.S. forces on its territory would be cut.

Senior Pentagon official to resign

TEL AVIV (AP) — U.S. Deputy Under-Secretary Dov Zakheim, a key opponent of Israel's home-made Lavi jetfighter, is leaving his Pentagon post at the end of the month, Israeli Radio and newspapers reported Monday. Mr. Zakheim, 39, who is responsible for planning and resources at the Pentagon, will join a private business as a systems analyst, the daily Haaretz reported. Mr. Zakheim was offended by Israel's sharp criticism of his views on the Lavi project and by the U.S. General Accounting Office's findings that his estimates of the Lavi's costs were vastly exaggerated, the Jerusalem Post's Washington correspondent reported.

Reagan authorises CIA action against Philippines rebels

NEW YORK (R) — President Ronald Reagan recently authorised a multi-million-dollar operation by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) against Philippine rebels, Newsweek magazine reported in its current edition. Newsweek, citing "a critical Washington source," said the plan had the approval of Philippines President Corason Aquino.

Kanaan hopes for better private sector investment in development projects

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Minister of Planning Taber Kanaan said Monday that the participation in national development by the private sector during the past year was not up to the expectations of the government but expressed hope that the situation would improve soon.

Dr. Kanaan, speaking at the weekly "Monday Press Circle" organised by the Department of Press and Publications, said investments in development projects by the private sector had dropped. He did not give figures on the ratio between the private and public sectors in this regard but said the public sector was doing its share.

According to provisions in the 1986-1990 Five-Year National Development Plan, the private sector is expected to contribute

48 per cent of the \$3.15 billion plan through investments in development projects. In line with the plan, the government, especially the Ministry of Industry and Trade, has introduced a series of incentives aimed at channelling private sector investment into the productive sector. Although the private sector is not bound by the provisions, the government is hoping to attract Jordanian investors to employ their capital in areas outlined by the plan, particularly in agriculture and in-

dustrial. In Dr. Kanaan's view, the incentives offered by the government and new legislation in this context could "provide the atmosphere conducive to encouraging private sector investment in the country." The minister noted that the incentives were also aimed at attracting Arab capital through encouraging joint Jordanian-Arab ventures. The public investment was "pretty close" to the expectations of the plan, he said.

Dr. Kanaan also said that there had been "encouraging and positive signals" regarding the state of the Jordanian economy. He said that one of these positive indications was that the real growth achieved during the last year was 2.4 per cent compared to 2.9 per cent projected in the plan.

(Continued on page 3)

Cleric expects hostage to be spared

BEIRUT (Agencies) — A top Shi'ite Muslim religious leader in Lebanon said he believed a French hostage under threat of death on Monday was to be spared by his pro-Iranian captors.

The Revolutionary Justice Organisation, in a statement delivered at 1800 GMT on Saturday, said Jean-Louis Normandin was "on trial" and it would announce his "execution" within 48 hours unless France answered satisfactorily its demands.

Sheikh Mohammad Mehdi Shamseddin, vice-president of the higher Shi'ite Islamic Council, said in a newspaper interview to be published on Tuesday he had made "tiring and sensitive efforts to secure his (Normandin's) safety."

"I cannot say that I have been promised, but I can deduce from the results of our efforts and those of others that his safety is more likely," he told Beirut's

pro-Syrian Ash Sharq. "It is utterly illegal to blame an innocent person for the offence of the party alleged to be guilty," Sheikh Shamseddin said.

He said he had worked constantly for the release of hostages held in Lebanon because kidnapping was "corrupt and wrong." As the hours ticked towards the deadline for Mr. Normandin's "execution," there were no fresh public statements from his captors or from the French government.

In Paris, convicted Lebanese Anis Naccache called Monday on the Revolutionary Justice Organisation to spare the life of Mr. Normandin.

Naccache "begs and entreats" the pro-Iranian group "in the name of our common struggle to spare the life of the innocent Normandin," the French news agency Agence France-Presse reported.

Armocost begins Moscow talks on regional conflicts

MOSCOW (Agencies) — A U.S. official has begun talks with Soviet officials on a series of regional conflicts as well as preparations for next month's visit by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, the U.S. embassy said Monday.

Michael Armocost, under-secretary of state for political affairs, arrived in Moscow on Sunday and began meetings on Monday, embassy spokesman Philippe Duchateau said.

He said Mr. Armocost did not plan to discuss the results of those negotiations before his departure Wednesday.

The TASS news agency reported that Mr. Armocost met with First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuri Vorontsov, Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Rogachev and other ministry officials on Monday, but said only that the discussions involved "a wide range of regional questions."

Indian police question 2 in southern train bombing

MADRAS, India (R) — South Indian police on Monday questioned two men in connection with a railway bridge bombing that sent a speeding express train into a dry river bed, killing at least 32 people.

Police in Tamil Nadu, India's southernmost state, told Reuters the two unidentified men were picked up in a village near the Marudaiyari bridge on which two remote-controlled bombs were detonated early Sunday.

They also said a camp near the bridge housing Tamil guerrillas fighting for "Eelam," a separate homeland in Sri Lanka, was cordoned off and searched for incriminating material but gave no further details.

Authorities said more than 1,200 people were travelling on the Rockfort Express heading from Tiruchirappalli to Madras

when the explosions sent the engine and eight coaches plummeting off the bridge.

Police said the death toll was at least 32 but unofficial sources said as many as 100 people could have been killed. At least 130 people were admitted to hospitals and others treated at the scene, they said.

Other coaches of the 17-car express were still balanced on the twisted rails, the remains of the 200-metre bridge sagging beneath them.

"There is no sound from the wreckage," a police official said, "we don't expect to find anyone else alive."

Eyewitnesses said five handwritten posters supporting Tamil militants fighting for a separate homeland in Sri Lanka were found pasted on the bridge.

Carter arrives in Algiers

ALGIERS (R) — Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter arrived here Monday for a three-day visit, on the first stage of a Middle East tour that will take him to Egypt, Syria, Jordan and Israel, the Algerian news agency AFS reported.

Mr. Carter, whose handling of the U.S. hostages crisis in Tehran was a decisive factor in his defeat by Ronald Reagan in the 1980 presidential election, thanked Algeria for its aid in securing the hostages' release.

"I feel very moved on arriving in this spot where this historical event took place," he said.

"I had been waiting for years for the occasion of visiting Algeria and expressing, in the American people's name, my deep thanks for the aid and assistance Algeria provided in the liberation of the U.S. hostages in January 1981."

Asked at Albany airport near his home town of Plains on Sunday night if he was carrying a letter from the administration to Syria about American hostages held in Lebanon, Mr. Carter told Reuters: "Not that I can discuss."

Mr. Carter said he planned a stopover in Syria during his two-week trip to "discuss a wide range of topics with Syrian leaders."

Asked if he planned to make a personal plea to leaders of Syria and other Arab nations for aid in winning the release of the hostages, he replied: "I will see if I can get any information."

U.S. and diplomatic sources have said Mr. Carter might carry a message about the hostages from President Reagan to Syrian President Hafez Al Assad.

Mr. Carter's secrecy shrouded trip sparked controversy within the Reagan administration.



QUEEN RETURNS: His Majesty King Hussein and members of the Royal Family and senior officials receive Her Majesty Queen Noor who returned to Amman from France aboard a new Airbus of the Royal Jordanian airline. The King later cut a cake to celebrate the arrival of the new aircraft (See story on page 3).



Airbus of the Royal Jordanian airline. The King later cut a cake to celebrate the arrival of the new aircraft (See story on page 3).

Seminar on Islamic re-awakening concludes with pledge to continue democratic dialogue

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A seminar on "The Modern Islamic Re-Awakening and the problems of the Arab Nation" concluded here on Monday with a pledge to continue constructive and democratic dialogue among the different Islamic trends, Arab nationalists and other faithful to lay a basis for mutual understanding.

The participants, who included representatives of Muslim movements in the Arab World, nationalists as well as secular and Christian scholars, praised the three-day seminar which "succeeded in clarifying the stands and perceptions of the different groups involved." The speakers also noted that papers presented and subsequent discussions called "for reconciliation instead of confrontation, especially between Islam and Arab nationalism."

Some participants, however, criticised the seminar, for not representing all Muslim movements in the Arab World since most of the Muslim thinkers and activists who attended represented "the moderate and conciliatory trend within the Islamic movement."

During the seminar, which was jointly organised by Al al Beit Foundation and the Arab Thought Forum (ATF), a number of Islamic researchers presented papers dealing with the concepts of political participation endorsed by the "modern Islamic re-awakening movement" and the movement's relation and stand on Western culture and other Arab and international ideologies.

In the final session, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, who actively participated in the seminar, called on the participants to lay the ground for a constructive and democratic dialogue in order to seriously tackle the intellectual, political and other questions faced by the Islamic movement and the Arab Nation.

The Prince also suggested that a series of limited seminars be held to continue the dialogue started during this seminar.

According to the Prince's suggestion, these limited seminars would address issues like plans to reunify the Arab World, Islam and independent development and the role of independent Islamic development, the charter of the National Islamic Front in Sudan and foreign schemes to divide and balkanise the region.

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Prince Hassan said the main objective of such limited seminars should be to formulate a common platform which can constitute the minimum programme that all the Islamic and Arab political intellectual trends could be committed to.

Earlier in the session, two researchers presented papers on Islam and Western civilisation and Islam and Arab nationalism. Dr. Radwan Al Saad, who presented the first paper, argued that the Islamic movements had rejected all intellectual products of the Western civilisation. Dr. Saad viewed Western culture as one major and extremely important aspect of Western imperialism.

The Muslim researcher rejected the concepts of Western democracy and Marxist scientific socialism.

This announcement appears as a matter of record only.

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March 1987

INSIDE

- UAE court sentences ex-head of AMF to jail, page 2
- RJ gets new Airbus, page 3
- King: Nuclear-free world is not only possible but a must, page 4
- Jean Simmons is content with occasional roles, page 5
- West Germany and U.S. upset in Davis Cup, page 6
- Strikes and lockouts on the increase in U.S., page 7
- Pakistanis siphoned off Afghan aid money, report says, page 8

UAE court convicts former head of Arab Monetary Fund

ABU DHABI (R) — The Abu Dhabi criminal court Monday convicted former Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) President Jawad Hashem on 47 charges, including malpractice and forgery, and sentenced him to 79 years imprisonment.

Hashem, an ex-Iraqi planning minister and head of the Abu Dhabi-based AMF from 1977 to 1982, had been tried in his absence and was not present in court.

Three of his Iraqi associates at the fund, also tried in his absence, were given jail terms ranging from 30 to 79 years.

Hashem and his three compatriots — Jalal Oban Estifan, Mahdi Saleh Bahr Al Oulom and Sameer Fadel Oun — were ordered to pay back to the AMF a total of around \$100 million.

Two other defendants were in court. Palestinian Samir Abdul Latif Rajab, ex-acting head of the AMF's Finance Department, was jailed for two years, while Jordanian Tawfiq Ibrahim Ayoub, regional head of an auditing firm, was acquitted on all counts.

The head of the Abu Dhabi court, Hisham Al Sarraf said: "It is a matter of regret and sadness to the court to deal with this case with all those involved in it."

"While the fund was established as an Arab agency to achieve monetary integration, it was subjected from 1978 to 1982 to criminal acts which were committed by those who were given trust by the nation to achieve its objectives."

"They stole its (the fund's) money, forged its papers and disappointed their nation and ran away to nests previously prepared by them in places of the Arab enemies," Mr. Sarraf said.

Abu Dhabi prosecutor Mohammad Saleh Al Mualla told Reuters that Jawad Hashem was believed to be moving between Britain, Brazil and Canada.

The whereabouts of the other three Iraqis was not known, but Mr. Mualla said the International Police Organisation Interpol had been asked to help return all four to the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Officials said the UAE had no extradition treaties with Britain, Brazil and Canada, but that contacts on the issue were underway with London.

The five convicted men have 15 days in which to lodge appeals. Mr. Mualla said. They must inform the court within eight days of their intention to appeal.

The court, after a trial lasting nearly three years, ordered Hashem and the three Iraqis to pay back to the AMF, at varying individual amounts, the sum of around \$100 million, with 10 per cent interest.

Hashem was also fined a total of 1.9 million dirhams (\$516,000) or to face an additional jail term of 18 years and 18 months.

Estifan, former head of the AMF's Finance Department, was convicted on 47 charges and sentenced to 79 years in jail. He was also fined 1.9 million dirhams (\$516,000).

Oun, ex-AMF treasury head, was sentenced to 46 charges, sentenced to 75 years' imprisonment and fined 1.8 million dirhams (\$498,000).

Oun was convicted on eight charges, sentenced to 30 years' imprisonment and fined 270,000 dirhams (\$73,000).

The AMF was established in 1977 by 21 Arab countries as an independent authority to help member-states offset balance of payments deficits, promote monetary cooperation and economic development, and improve Arab money markets.

Israel denies further spying in United States

TEL AVIV (AP) — Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Monday since the arrest of convicted spy Jonathan Jay Pollard, no Americans or non-Americans had spied for Israel in United States.

However, Rabin was less emphatic in rejecting reports that the intelligence unit which recruited Pollard also used other Americans to carry on espionage against the U.S.

"I believe it's not true. So far, no one can present any proof... that there are others" involved in the spy scandal, Rabin said in a speech to American fundraisers. He was responding to a report in the Washington Post on Sunday which said American investigators feared other Americans had been spying for Israel.

U.S. Attorney Joseph E. Dignona told the Post the issue was raised during interrogation of Pollard, 32, who was sentenced earlier this month to life in prison for selling U.S. military secrets to Israel.

Israel has said Pollard was part of a rogue spy ring operating without government authority which has since been dismantled. Rabin said since the unit had been dismantled, "Israel has not carried out any espionage activities in the United States."

"Let me make it clear... there are no Americans or non-Americans that serve as spies for Israel against the United States," Rabin said in the speech at Hadassah Hospital on Mount Scopus.

Rabin also said an unidentified U.S. prosecutor approached attorneys defending Avienn Sella, an army officer who acted as Pollard's Israeli handler in Washington, to try to elicit the names of other Americans spying for Israel.

Runcie offers to find missing Iranians in return for Waite

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — In an exchange of letters, Robert Runcie, the Archbishop of Canterbury has offered to find the whereabouts of three Iranians, kidnapped in Lebanon four years ago, while Iran has promised to help locate Terry Waite, the missing Anglican envoy.

The texts of the two letters were read Monday over Tehran Radio monitored in Nicosia. The radio did not say when the letters were sent.

But Runcie's office in London said he wrote a letter to the speaker of the Iranian Parliament, Hashemi Rafsanjani, in January "in response to remarks made in Tehran making it clear that if approached, he would do what he could to help Terry Waite."

The radio said Mr. Rafsanjani accepted Runcie's offer and promised to ask Iran's Lebanese and Syrian friends to find Mr. Waite who dropped out of sight two months ago.

The radio also said that Runcie's letter offered to help locate the Iranians who were seized by Lebanese right-wing Falange gunmen in northern Lebanon in August 1982.

They are the Iranian Charge d'Affaires in Lebanon Hassan Misavi, the commander of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards in Syria, Mortezaei and a correspondent of the official Islamic Republic News Agency. A Lebanese driver was also taken.

The radio quoted Runcie's letter as translated into Persian, the language spoken in Iran, as saying: "If you are interested, I will be glad, by contacting the Christian community in Beirut, to find their approximate location."

Mr. Waite disappeared in Lebanon while trying to negotiate

the release of some of the 26 foreign hostages held by pro-Iranian Shi'ite Muslim extremists.

"I welcome your offer and have asked officials and our friends in Lebanon and Syria to persist in looking for a clue (as to the whereabouts of) Terry Waite," Mr. Rafsanjani's letter said, according to the radio.

"We expect you to inform us as soon as possible the results of your efforts in finding the four kidnapped Iranians and Lebanese and their return to the arms of their families."

"I pray that this joint effort for the elimination of the suffering of the other sufferers would continue," Mr. Rafsanjani said in his letter, apparently referring to the rest of the hostages in Lebanon.

Mr. Rafsanjani criticised the Western media for ignoring the "grief and mourning of the oppressed (people) of the Third World" and only reporting "the sufferings rendered to Westerners."

"Your initiative for the rescue of the four kidnapped Iranian oppressed and the bereaved and waiting families — who have unfortunately been boycotted by the Western news — is a bright point in the dark and corrupt atmosphere of imperialist Western news and for the credibility for the church and Christianity," the Iranian speaker said.

Mr. Rafsanjani expressed regret for the "bitter incidents which have brought about suffering upon human beings" and declared his "willingness to cooperate to combat such incidents."

According to the radio's Persian rendering of Runcie's letter the archbishop expressed strong faith and affection for the Iranian people.

Weinberger to renew commitment to strengthen Turkish military

ANKARA (R) — U.S. Defence Secretary Casper Weinberger will renew Washington's commitment to strengthening Turkey's armed forces during a four-day visit from Tuesday, diplomats said Monday.

He will discuss with Defence Minister Zeki Yavuzturk and Acting Prime Minister Kaya Erdem issues linked to the 1980 Defence and Economic Cooperation Agreement (DECA) between the two NATO members.

Foreign Minister Vahit Halefoglu and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz were due to sign a "side letter" in Washington Monday confirming last December's agreement to extend the pact to 1990.

In Turkey, where there is consensus among mainstream political parties on supporting membership of the Western alliance, Mr. Weinberger will not encounter the type of protest that preceded his arrival in Spain on Sunday.

Communism is illegal in Turkey, while the pacifist Turkish Peace Association was banned by the military in 1980 and its leaders put on trial in a case which continues.

Social Democratic opposition leader Erdal Inonu, however, urged the government on Friday not to sign the DECA letter because the United States had not given firm assurances on future aid.

Under DECA, Turkey gives the U.S. important communications, intelligence-gathering and air base facilities in the strategic area between the East Mediterranean and Black Sea in exchange for aid, set at \$590 million for this year.

The figure is restricted by Congress but the side letter commits the U.S. administration to trying to help more in other ways, including rescheduling debts and sending extra equipment declared as surplus by the U.S. military, diplomats said.

Mr. Weinberger has been briefed by his aides for discussion of these issues as well as defence industrial cooperation, another area where the U.S. seeks to help modernise the outdated equipment used by the Turkish military, diplomats said.

The U.S. already supports enhancement of ageing M48 battle tanks, co-production of F-16 fighters, frigate construction and helicopter co-assembly in Turkey, which borders the Soviet Union, Iran, Iraq and Syria to the south and east.

Recent assurances of U.S. support by Mr. Weinberger and other senior officials have angered Greece. Relations between Ankara and Athens have been soured by differences over the Aegean Sea and air space.

Khashoggi blames CIA, North for failure of Iran arms deal

MADRID (R) — Adnan Khashoggi, the Saudi multi-millionaire who financed U.S. arms sales to Iran, said in an interview published Monday that the CIA and former White House aide Oliver North were to blame for the failure of plans to win over moderates within the Iranian government.

"Everything worked fine until the CIA (Central Intelligence Agency) meddled, with the new idea of swapping weapons for hostages, forgetting the initial objective," he told the Spanish daily newspaper El Pais.

El Pais, in the second part of an interview carried out last Friday in Monte Carlo, quoted Mr. Khashoggi as saying he charged Iran an extra 20 per cent on the weapons with the idea of giving the money to moderates in the Iranian government, but the CIA started selling its own weapons more cheaply without the U.S.

National Security Council being aware of it.

"The Iranians discovered the trick and accused us of being swindlers. Israel stopped delivering the weapons and I lost \$10 million I had advanced to (former White House aide) Oliver North," he said.

Mr. Khashoggi said in the first part of the interview published Sunday that the money owed to him was in a Swiss bank account in the name of Lake Resources, a company controlled by Col. North. Col. North was fired from the National Security Council (NSC) for allegedly diverting funds to "contras" fighting Nicaragua's Sandinista government.

"It is a shame that a 39-year-old boy like him (Col. North) could have so much power in the U.S. administration. An historical opportunity to achieve peace in the Iran-Iraq war was lost because of him," he said.

Mr. Khashoggi said he doubted Iranian arms dealer Mansour Ghorbanifar's belief that he could still secure the release of American hostages in Lebanon.

"He could have achieved it months ago... now he is an embittered man, indignant against the Americans and I think he will never be involved again," he said.

Mr. Khashoggi forecast suicide kamikaze-type actions against oil fields in the Iran-Iraq war as both countries were desperate to win at any price but were financially ruined.

Peace would only be achieved if the Soviet Union and the United States together ordered them to end the war.

He said progress to end Middle East conflicts was crucial. "My forecast is that next year, unless something new occurs, everything will be over and we shall see another world war," he said.

Israeli attache in U.S. asks to be recalled

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's military attache in the United States, denied accreditation to Canada over his role in a 1982 Beirut massacre of Palestinians, wants to return home if he is offered a major field command, defence sources said Monday.

Maj. Gen. Amos Yaron, in Washington since August, commanded Israeli troops surrounding the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps when Lebanese Falangist militiamen massacred hundreds of Palestinians in September 1982.

An Israeli inquiry cited Gen. Yaron for negligence and insensitivity for failing to halt immediately the killings. It recommended he not be given a field command for three years.

The sources said Gen. Yaron told Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin he was not satisfied with his overseas duty and preferred to return home and seek a major combat command.

Gen. Yaron, 47, informed Rabin he encountered no problems during his U.S. assignment despite his controversial past, the sources said.

But Canada earlier this month refused him accreditation as a non-resident attache based in Washington.

A Canadian External Affairs Department spokesman declined to say why, but officials said privately the decision was based on Gen. Yaron's role in Lebanon.

The general is currently in Israel to prepare the visit here, starting Monday, of U.S. Secretary of the Army John Marsh.

Bush would have advised against Iran arms deal

NEW YORK (R) — Vice President George Bush was quoted as saying he would have advised President Reagan against selling weapons to Iran had he realised the initiative was designed merely to free hostages in Lebanon.

Mr. Bush, in an interview with CBS News "60 Minutes," said he accepted the Tower Commission conclusion that the United States had sold arms to Iran in return for Tehran's influence in freeing Americans held by militant factions in Lebanon.

But Mr. Bush said that since arms were not going directly to kidnappers he did not link the arms sales to strategically important Iran to efforts to free hostages elsewhere when the policies were discussed at key National Security Council (NSC) meetings he attended.

"... I wish with clairvoyant hindsight that I had known that we were trading arms for hostages as the (Tower) report concluded, and then I would have weighed in very heavily with the president to that effect," Mr. Bush said.

Asked what might have alerted him that an arms-for-hostages deal was being planned, Mr. Bush said: "The rationale, and the argument that the president feels very strongly about, is that these arms did not go to the people holding the hostages."

Asked if this was a distinction without a difference, Mr. Bush replied: "In retrospect, it may well be."

Mr. Bush, considered the Republican Party's leading contender for 1988 presidential nomination, said "it was like slugging the solar plexus" when he learned profits from the arms sales had probably gone to aid the Nicaraguan rebels, known as contras.

Mr. Bush said he knew "nothing in terms of detail" about what NSC aide Oliver North was doing to support the contras

when official U.S. aid to the rebels was illegal.

"I know that Ollie North fervently believes, as I do, that democracy in Nicaragua should prevail," Mr. Bush said. "I know he cared very much. But in terms of detail, (I knew) nothing."

Asked if he now felt he should have been more involved with the Iran policy or the contra connection, Mr. Bush replied, "I don't think so."

Mr. Bush says he was so stunned when he heard reports that funds from Iran sales had been diverted to the Nicaraguan rebels that it was like a punch in the stomach.

"I could see very clear the minute I heard it that it would be a political blow, cause... whether there (was) any violation of the law or not, people who disapprove of our policy would be raising Cain about it," Mr. Bush said.

Referring to council meetings, Mr. Bush said: "What I do is advise the president. I don't speak up in these meetings. I haven't done it for 6½ years. I'm not going to start now. And the reason for that has nothing to do with Iran, it has a lot to do with the vice presidency and how it works."

Mr. Bush said he disagreed with President Ronald Reagan's daughter, Maureen, that Col. North and Adm. John Poindexter, former presidential national security adviser, should be court-martialed. Miss Reagan is co-chairman of the Republican National Committee.

"These men are not guilty of treason," Mr. Bush said. "That's a strong word to a guy that fought in combat for his country, for me, for Ollie North or for John Poindexter."

The vice president also said he knew nothing of contacts with contra officials by his national security adviser, Donald Gregg.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION		20:00..... Evening Show
Tel: 773111-19		21:00..... News Summary
		21:45..... Evening Show Cont.
		22:00..... News Summary
		22:45..... Evening Show Cont.
PROGRAMME ONE		23:00..... News Summary
15:30.....	Programme Review	23:45..... Evening Show Cont.
15:55.....	Cartoons	24:00..... Evening Show Cont.
16:20.....	Investive Boy	24:00..... Close Down
16:30.....	Ecology Workshop	
17:00.....	Travel Features	
17:30.....	Festivals of the World	
18:00.....	Religious Programme	
18:30.....	Arabic Series	
19:30.....	Local programme on public safety	
19:50.....	Programme Review	
20:00.....	News in Arabic	
20:30.....	Arabic series	
20:50.....	Tommy's Story	
21:30.....	Local debate on legal issues	
22:10.....	Songs from the movies (Arabic)	
23:00.....	News Summary in Arabic	
23:10.....	Arabic Play	
00:20.....	Close down	
PROGRAMME TWO		
18:00.....	Mollere programme et plener	
19:00.....	News in French	
19:15.....	French Varieties	
19:30.....	News in Hebrew	
19:45.....	Economics Malaysia	
19:55.....	News in Arabic	
20:30.....	No Place Like Home	
21:00.....	Music Box	
22:00.....	News in English	
22:20.....	The Fourth Arm	
RADIO JORDAN		
855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & partly on 9500 KHz, SW Tel: 774111-18		
07:30.....	Light Music	
07:40.....	Newsweek	
08:00.....	Morning Show	
08:10.....	News Summary	
08:45.....	Morning Show Cont.	
11:00.....	Comedy	
11:30.....	I say Listening	
12:00.....	News Summary	
12:30.....	Rescue	
12:45.....	Pop Session	
13:00.....	News Summary	
13:05.....	Pop Session Cont.	
14:00.....	News Bulletin	
14:10.....	Instrumentals	
14:30.....	Pop Talk	
14:50.....	Concert News	
16:00.....	News Summary	
16:05.....	Instrumentals, Old Favourites	
17:00.....	Jordan Weekly	
17:30.....	Pop Session	
17:50.....	News Summary	
18:00.....	Top Twenty	
19:00.....	News Desk	
19:30.....	Date with a Star	

20:00.....	Evening Show
21:00.....	News Summary
21:45.....	Evening Show Cont.
22:00.....	News Summary
22:45.....	Evening Show Cont.
23:00.....	News Summary
23:45.....	Evening Show Cont.
24:00.....	Close Down

BBC WORLD SERVICE
639, 720, 1323 KHz

06:00 News 06:30 Lored by the Gods
06:45 Reflections 06:50 Financial
News 07:30 World News 07:30 24
Hours: News Summary 07:30 News
Topics 7:40 Book Choice 07:45 The
World News Summary 08:30
Rock Solid 08:40 World News 08:40 24
Hours: Net Summary 09:30 Here's
Health! 09:45 Network UK 10:00
World News Letter 10:10 Reflections 10:15
Catch the Winn 10:30 Concert
World 11:00 World News 11:00 British
Press Review 11:15 The World Today
11:30 Financial News; Look Ahead
11:45 Kings of Swing 12:00 News
Summary; Discovery 12:30 Play: Joe the
Obscure 12:30 World News 13:00
News About Britain 13:15 Waveguide
13:25 The Letter 13:30 Sport 13:30
Sports International 14:00 Radio
Newsweek 14:15 Multitrack 1 14:45
Sports Round-up 15:00 World News
15:00 24 Hours News Summary 15:30
Network UK 16:00 Network News
Loved by the Gods 17:00 Radio News
17:15 A Johnny Good Show 17:50
Racing from Cheltenham 18:00
World News 18:40 Newsweek 18:45
Concerts 18:45 The World Today 19:00
World News 19:40 A Letter from
Scotland 19:45 Mediterranean 19:45 Sports
Roundup 20:40 Newsweek 22:00 News
Summary; People and Pets 01:30 The
Drugs Trail

VOICE OF AMERICA
MW 1260 & SW 7200, 9555, 17740,
11925 and 15210 KHz

05:00 News 05:10 Newsline 05:30 VOA
Morning 06:00 News 06:10 Newsline
06:30 VOA Morning 07:00 News 07:10
Newsline 07:30 VOA Morning 08:00
News 08:10 Newsline 08:30 VOA
Morning 17:00 News 17:10 Newsline
17:30 News 17:40 Newsline 18:10
Focus 18:30 Special English & 18:15
News 19:00 News 19:10 Newsline 19:30
Magazine Show 20:00 News 20:30
Focus 20:30 Special English News &
Features 21:00 News 21:10 Newsline
21:30 Music USA 22:00 News & Editorial
22:15 Music USA Jazz 23:00 News
23:10 Music USA World Report

NEWS IN BRIEF

Decree approves JPA pension fund

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Royal Decree has been issued approving the pension scheme for members of the Jordan Press Association (JPA). Under the journalists pension fund programme, recently published in the local dailies, finances for supporting the fund would be an annual JD 20 membership fee, JD 6 of which would come from the journalist's monthly salary and other allocations from the JPA's fiscal budget. Under the pension scheme, each journalist who has served for 25 years or who has reached the age of 60 will be entitled to a monthly retirement salary of JD 100.

Decree okays joint investment company

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree has been issued endorsing agreement on establishing a Jordanian-Saudi company for industrial and agricultural investments and its statute. The agreement was concluded in Riyadh on Feb. 12. The proposed company, which will be based in Amman, has a capital of \$50 million. Another Royal Decree has been issued approving instructions on preaching, guidance and sermons. The regulations set out the principles governing the delivery of sermons, preaching and guidance.

Syrian industry minister ends visit

AMMAN (Petra) — Syrian Minister of Industry Ali Tarabulsi left Amman on Monday at the end of his three-day visit to Jordan during which he met with Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and Minister of Industry and Trade Rajai Muasher to discuss means of promoting Jordanian-Syrian economic and trade relations. Mr. Tarabulsi and Dr. Muasher co-chaired a general assembly meeting of the Jordanian-Syrian Industry Company (JSIC) to discuss its work and means of developing trade between Jordan and Syria. The Syrian minister was seen off at the Ramtha border post by senior officials from the Ministry of Industry and Trade and local officials.

Jordan to host Afro-Asian development talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan a conference for the Afro-Asian Rural Development Organisation will be held in Amman on April 18, a report in the Arabic daily Al Rai said on Monday. Taking part in the conference will be representatives of 27 African and Asian countries. The Jordanian delegation to the conference will present working papers on rural development and problems related to migration from rural to urban areas, housing and services. A number of committees have been formed to prepare for the meeting and to draw up the necessary programmes in coordination with concerned ministries.

Chamber studies private health insurance

AMMAN (Petra) — The Amman Chamber of Commerce board of directors has asked Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh to give the board a grace period until June to enable it to study a proposed project for the unification of medical insurance schemes in the private sector, the chamber's director Mohammad Al Tiji said Monday. Under the health insurance schemes adopted by banks and private sector companies, employees receive different medical services. The Higher Health Council has recently set up a committee to study this issue.

Sudanese delegation tours JDEC

AMMAN (Petra) — Under Secretary of the Sudanese Ministry of Trade, Cooperation and Development Omar Al Mubarak and members of the delegation accompanying him Monday visited the Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation (JIEC) where they were received by JIEC Director General Fayez Al-Shehaimat. Dr. Al-Shehaimat briefed them on the establishment and development of the estates and the services they offer to investors.

Hmoud discusses animal wealth projects

AMMAN (Petra) — Means of strengthening cooperation in establishing joint projects for developing animal production were discussed on Monday during a meeting between Minister of Agriculture Marwan Al Hmoud and Director General of the Arab Company for Developing Animal Wealth Abdullah Al Thuyayyan. The company has set up a project for producing layers in the Azraq area.

Committee discusses Dome of the Rock

AMMAN (Petra) — A special committee in charge of reconstructing Al Aqsa Mosque in the occupied Arab city of Jerusalem Monday held a meeting under the chairmanship of Chief Islamic Justice Mohammad Mbeilan. During the committee meeting, which was attended by a number of experts from Egypt and Morocco, issues pertaining to technical aspects of reconstructing the Dome of the Rock were discussed.

Dinner theatre back in Amman with fun-filled hit comedy 'My Fat Friend'

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — "My Fat Friend," a hilarious two-act comedy produced by renowned British comedian turned producer Derek Nimmo, promises theatre lovers here a spectacular mix of scene and a fun-filled show packed with surprises.

Written by Charles Laurence, considered by drama critics as one of Europe's most successful playwrights, My Fat Friend, was the biggest theatrical hit of the season in Madrid, where it was first staged. Peter Coe, one of England's most distinguished theatre and film directors is directing the play. "Mr. Laurence strikes me as commercial comedy's most promising recruit since Alan Ayckbourn. And indeed, in this very funny play, the author shows plenty of invention and a nice aptitude for witty dialogue and laughter-provoking situations," wrote Irving Wardell, the London-based Times newspaper theatre critic on the play.

The play, which opens at the Jordan Intercontinental Hotel playhouse tonight marks the opening of the 1987 dinner/theatre season in Amman.

The five performances of the play have been organised by the hotel in cooperation with British Airways.

The four-member cast are of course the British Airways touring theatre group which includes some of Britain's top actors and actresses, some of them well-known to Jordanian television and film audiences.

The British Airways theatre group — although not the same cast — has staged five successful plays at the hotel over the past four years including, "There's a Girl in my Soup," "How the Other Half Loves," and "My Giddy Aunt."

In a press conference held Monday to introduce the cast and the technical crew of "My Fat Friend," Intercontinental General Manager Gabriel Khawam expressed his pleasure at hosting the playhouse in Amman.

Eric Burdon, British Airways manager in Jordan, Syria and Lebanon, said that "My Fat Friend" was an excellent play and sure to be enjoyed by audience in Amman. "The forward bookings for the play are excellent," said Mr. Burdon.

The play, according to its director Coe played successfully in London's Churchill theatre for three weeks before embarking on this dinner/theatre tour.

After the play is staged in Amman, the group will embark on a tour of Arab, Gulf and Far Eastern countries including Cairo, Dubai, Muscat, Singapore, Seoul, Bangkok and Jakarta. Their three-month swing is expected to end in June.

Starring in "My Fat Friend," is one of Britain's best loved actors, John Inman, who also is well known to Jordan Television viewers from his role in the television series "Are You Being Served?" Inman, who has established his name as one of his country's leading entertainers, has also appeared in numerous television, film and theatre as well as pantomime shows. His West End debut



KING HONOURS CIVIL SERVANT: His Majesty King Hussein on Monday receives Director General of the Land and Survey Department Badri Al Mulaqi to present him with Jordan's Medal of Independence of the First Order, in appreciation of his long and dedicated service with the government (Petra photo)

Seminar on plasticulture underway

AMMAN (Petra) — President of the University of Jordan Abdul Salam Al Majali Monday said that plasticulture had developed a great deal in Jordan over the past few years and this development was accompanied by the emergence of new industries and the drip irrigation system which has now spread to many agricultural areas in Jordan.

Dr. Majali, who was addressing the opening session of a seminar on technology used in plasticulture and its effects on agriculture in Jordan, said that agricultural land covered by plastic sheets now exceeds 10,000 dunums in the Jordan Valley and the highlands of the Kingdom, up from some 2,500 dunums in 1968 when this technology first began in the country.

It is hoped that, through continued cooperation with a French team now involved in carrying out joint projects with the University of Jordan, new means will be found for extending the use of plastic sheets and greenhouses to desert and semi-arid regions, Dr. Majali said. He added that the joint projects, initiated in 1982, cover a wide area of the Kingdom and explained that a Jordanian-French team is now involved in research work designed to promote agriculture production.

Cooperation between the University of Jordan, other organisations and foreign countries aims at increasing the exchange of expertise and information and is bound to help the country achieve better crop production, Dr. Majali added.

The University of Jordan, which is this year celebrating its Silver Jubilee, is proud to continue the march towards development and is determined more than ever to pursue the implementation of programmes, seminars and workshops designed to help achieve the country's aspirations in progress and prosperity, he continued.

This university, which was established in 1962, has been continually involved in interacting with the local community and

endeavouring to serve the nation's goals and objectives in various fields of development, Dr. Majali said.

He expressed hope that the seminar would help give further impetus to agricultural development in the Kingdom.

The opening session was also addressed by Dr. Mahmoud Dweiri, dean of the university's Faculty of Agriculture, who referred to the joint projects being carried out by the university and the French team. He said that joint endeavours are aimed at arriving at a better exploitation of agricultural land in the Jordan Valley and at increasing production.

Projects conducted by the joint team have helped to increase cereal production, ensured continued flow of French agricultural expertise into Jordan and secured training in French institutes for Jordanian personnel and agricultural engineering, Dr. Dweiri pointed out.

At present, the team's attention is focused on finding means for the better preservation of arable land, the better exploitation of water resources and improving the condition of soil in semi-arid regions of the Kingdom, Dr. Dweiri added.

Franco-Jordanian research

The cultural attaché at the French embassy in Amman also made a speech at the session, presenting an appraisal of the projects conducted by the joint team in Jordan since 1982. He said that the work of the team manifests the determination of Jordan and France, in widening their scientific and technical cooperation.

The joint team, he said, continues to work on the develop-

ment of plasticulture, the employment of solar power for different agricultural purposes, the design and manufacture of plastic sheets and greenhouses, testing solutions used as feed for plants and other related fields.

Dr. Mohammad Snwwan, chairman of a committee which prepared for the three-day seminar, made a speech in which he outlined the development of plasticulture in Jordan and the success it has achieved to date in promoting agricultural production and self-sufficiency. Dr. Snwwan said that Jordan welcomes cooperation with foreign countries and organisations in order to develop its land and water resources and also in absorbing the required technology to achieve that end.

Working papers

At least 28 working papers and research projects will be reviewed during the seminar, most focusing on the work of the joint Jordan-French team in agriculture.

Later, the first session was held and discussed working papers dealing with agriculture under plastic sheets in Jordan and France, the climatic conditions in Jordan and ways of storing solar power.

The second session dealt with the problems facing the production of vegetables in greenhouses in Saudi Arabia, the effect of plastic sheets on temperature in the soil, drip irrigation, controlling amounts of water used in irrigation under plastic cover as well as the production of tomatoes, cucumbers and other local crops in the Jordan Valley.

Experts in agriculture from Arab universities, West Germany, France and Jordan are taking part in the seminar.

ARA prepares for meeting on tourism, investment in Aqaba

AQABA (Petra) — Reactivating and promoting tourism in Aqaba was the subject of discussion during a meeting held here Monday at the Aqaba Region Authority (ARA) under the chairmanship of ARA President Bassam Qaqish. Mr. Qaqish said that the authority is currently preparing for a meeting to be held in Aqaba very soon with the participation of various sectors and public and private corporations to discuss tourism and investment in Aqaba.

The ARA, he added, would

open a national camp in Aqaba during this year which will offer services to Jordanian, Arab and foreign visitors at reasonable prices.

On the chalets project on the southern coast of Aqaba, Mr. Qaqish said the holiday homes will be sold to the public and will enable Jordanians and their families to spend their holidays in apartments on Aqaba beach. He also added that the ARA recently set up the Royal Diving Centre in Aqaba to encourage sports activities.



LANVIN PARFUMS

in Paris announced its comeback to the Middle East at a press conference held in Dubai March 11, 1987, by relaunching its Arpege range, Lanvin for men and promising several new products for women by next September. Marc Kapustin, export director of Lanvin, told newsmen that the company was giving its best selling perfume a "new look". This would be appropriate as the fragrance celebrates its 60th birthday this year. Lanvin itself completes 100 years next year. Mr. Kapustin also formally announced the appointment of Dajani International Company as local distributor of Lanvin products and Jerusalem Advertising Intermarkets Jordan as their Middle East advertising agency. Photo shows Mr. Kapustin addressing the conference. Ahmed Morisy El Shafie, Hassan Laham, Bassam Dajani and Bruno de Segue are also pictured.

RJ takes delivery of first Airbus A310-300

• King, senior officials attend touch down ceremony

• Five other wide-bodied aircraft to be delivered before 1990

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The first of six A 310-300 Airbus, purchased by the Royal Jordanian airline, landed at the Queen Alia International Airport on Monday with a grand ceremony headed by His Majesty King Hussein, members of the Royal family, Cabinet ministers and high ranking officials.

Her Majesty Queen Noor, who received the plane at the Toulouse assembly line, arrived aboard the aircraft which touched down on the tarmac to the tunes of the Armed Forces musical band.

The wide-bodied twin-engine plane, which seats 191 passengers, is due to enter commercial service this month on Royal Jordanian's Middle Eastern and European routes, Royal Jordanian Chairman of the Board Ali Ghandour told reporters.

Mr. Ghandour said that the second plane was expected to arrive in Amman next month. One airliner will be received in

spring 1988 and two others were expected to arrive in spring 1988 while the last of the six will be delivered in 1990.

He said that the planes have been ordered on a long-term lease basis with a payment every six months. At the end of the 20 payments, Royal Jordanian will own the planes. He said that a consortium of 37 European banks guaranteed the lease for Royal Jordanian.

The plane — built jointly by France, Britain, Germany and Spain — can reach an altitude of up to 41,000 feet at a speed of 500 miles per hour.

Mr. Ghandour said that the

Royal Jordanian had plans for the next ten years to introduce more aircraft to cover long-haul routes.

The plane, which is named after Prince Hashem, is painted with a crown in bold gold — which now adorns the tail of all RJ aircraft — against a dark grey background together with strips of red, white and golden yellow.

The aircraft, piloted by a captain and his assistant, will add to the airline's fleet of 17 aircraft including Boeing 747s, Lockheed TriStars and Boeing 727s.

Mr. Ghandour said that the new aircraft is more fuel efficient than any other aircraft, especially the Boeing 727.

New routes

The airline, which opened new routes to Sana'a and Moscow in 1986, has plans to start flying to Algeria, Manila, and Montreal as well as a route to Rio de Janeiro through Lagos and Abidjan in 1987.

Committee reviews proposals to develop Karak and Tafleh

AMMAN (Petra) — A meeting was held at the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment on Monday to discuss a report prepared by the Japanese Development Agency on the development of the Karak and Tafleh regions in southern Jordan.

The meeting, held under the chairmanship of Minister of Municipal and the Environment Youssef Hamdan, was attended by sectoral committees entrusted with handling the development of the two districts. Committee members discussed proposals for stemming the migration of people from rural to urban regions.

The report by the Japanese agency includes full details about the economic and social potential of the two districts and presents plans for their development within the current five-year national development scheme.

The committees groups representatives of the Natural Resources Authority, the Water Authority of Jordan, Mnta University and under secretaries of the Ministries of Transport, Agriculture, Labour, Municipal and Rural Affairs.

Kanaan hopes for better investments

(Continued from page 1)

Dr. Kanaan pointed out that one of the government's priorities was to address the problem of unemployment. He said that a ministerial committee assigned with addressing unemployment had found out that joblessness in Jordan was basically a result of the mounting number of university and school graduates and was not caused by a repatriation of Jordanian workers from the Gulf countries. He disclosed that only 1,275 Jordanian workers out of 300,000 Jordanian workers returned home from the Gulf between June and December 1986.

He said that among the Gulf countries the United Arab Emirates (UAE) laid off a bigger number of Jordanian workers than Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Oman. The latter three, according to the minister, were following a policy that aim "at retaining the Jordanian manpower."

Asked if the Gulf countries' attitude reflected a political decision, Dr. Kanaan said: "It is political in the broad sense." But he went further to explain that these countries' decision not to lay off many of its Jordanian workers "was also due to the high quality of Jordanian labour and performance in these countries."

Dr. Kanaan said that since the beginning of the year the government signed a number of loan agreements with Kuwaiti and Saudi agencies and European

banks and the German Development Bank. The amount of \$98 million so secured would go to finance a number of projects including service projects and infrastructure such as building sewage systems, and developing the Sahah Industrial City and the Zarqa basin.

Dr. Kanaan also said Israel had crippled the Palestinian-owned Jerusalem District Electricity Company (JDEC) by unfairly limiting its prices.

"The Jordanian government offered to bail it out, but on condition the tariffs and the whole structure of the concession should be made viable..." Dr. Kanaan said, and added, "they would not do that."

Israeli officials have threatened to shut down the JDEC if it cannot pay its debts, which Dr. Kanaan said exceed its net worth.

"The Israelis succeeded in crippling the company," by "imposing a false cap on the selling of electricity," he said.

Dr. Kanaan said the Israelis had failed to honour the company's concession which guaranteed the company a specified profit on its operations.

Much of the money is owed to the Israeli Electricity Co., from which it must buy power.

Dr. Kanaan said the Ministry of Occupied Territories had copies of Israeli accountants' reports that laid the primary blame for the company's problems on the prices at which it had to buy and sell power.

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Jordan Times

Not only possible but a must

The Soviet weekly magazine, *New Times*, has asked world leaders to answer the questions: Is a nuclear-free world possible? And what in your opinion are the prerequisites for international security? His Majesty King Hussein's answer to these two questions appeared in the magazine's March issue under the same headline.

THOUGH individual human beings are basically decent and peace-loving, yet humanity as a whole has been plagued throughout recorded history by an affliction of war and the use of force. These destructive courses of action were followed in pursuit of conceived national objectives

irrespective of the human suffering visited on both the aggressor and the victim.

Divine revelations and various human approaches were advanced to arrest this development. Unfortunately, not much success was achieved in the field of the peaceful resolution of conflicts. Our present century has witnessed two major and very devastating wars, the last of which witnessed the annihilation of Nagasaki and Hiroshima by atomic weapons. The advent of the atomic and nuclear era brought the sober realization that things cannot continue as before. The very survival of humanity is now at stake. The total devastation visited on the two Japanese cities in

1945 added a much needed impetus to the common search for a really effective mechanism to promote international cooperation and collective security and arrest the trend for war and the use of force. Subsequently, the United Nations Organisation was founded out of the ashes to provide such a framework and to serve as the collective conscience of mankind.

We believe that strict adherence to the principles of the United Nations Charter and the free will of the member states to abide by its resolutions constitute the best guarantee for our globe and the continued existence and survival of mankind.

Thus peace becomes not only possible without nuclear arms but a "must" and top priority in the nuclear age. Under these circumstances there cannot be a limited or a "winnable" war. Mutual and assured destruction to all is the logical aftermath of a nuclear holocaust.

Thus humanity must continue in its efforts to eliminate these weapons of awesome destruction. Disarmament, particularly in the nuclear field, should top the agenda of every state, organisation or individual. The close to one trillion dollars spent each year on the arms should be channelled to meet the pressing needs of mankind. It is an illusion, and

a very dangerous one at that, to assume that the accumulation of more nuclear weapons and the perfection of their delivery systems and destructiveness will lead to better or enhanced security. On the contrary, the nuclear arms race leads, with the passage of time, to more and more entrants to this gruesome race.

A free-for-all nuclear capability will lead, by design or accident, to the realisation of the very danger that the majority of mankind is seeking to eliminate. While we support all efforts aimed at the reduction and ultimate elimination of all nuclear, bacteriological and chemical weapons, we also demand that the security of non-nuclear states should

be safeguarded against the nuclear threat. This is particularly relevant and very pressing in the case of the Middle East (where Israel has joined the nuclear club) and Africa (where the racist South African regime has attained a nuclear capacity with which to threaten the people of Africa).

We pray that nuclear weapons that rose a threat to us all will be, at the same time, the driving force behind a sustained and collective international effort to free humanity from this ever present threat in order to devote our abundant resources to the urgent task of meeting the challenges that face us all.

'Forged' diplomacy

THE forced disclosure by Britain that Israel had forged British passports and used them in operations attributed to the Jewish state's notorious secret service, Mossad, should act as another eye-opener to the world at large of how the Western world treats Israel. It took a London newspaper to publish a report of the forgery and a subsequent half-hearted Israeli apology before the British Foreign Office admitted that such an episode had in fact taken place. We wonder whether the story would ever have come to light had it not been for the Sunday Times report. In all probability, London would have preferred to bury it within the labyrinth of British-Israeli diplomacy hoping that no-one would be the wiser. The best part of it all is that the story was unveiled more than six months after it took place.

We do not want to speculate as to what would have been the shape of events if it had been an Arab state that was involved in the business. We all know what could have been the reaction from London. By the same token, media details of the passport forgery speak of "tension" between Britain and Israel over the issue, but we fail to find any trace of such tension between the two countries. It appears that it was just a passing incident which does not have any bearing whatsoever on the strong support that the West extends to Israel; and the matter came to rest with the Israeli apology, which, according to the Sunday Times report, came after London tried its hand seven times. It is not surprising though, since few people need any reminder of Israeli arrogance, whether it is the Western world, the U.S., or any other country in the world.

To us in the Arab World, more important than the state of relations between Israel and the West, or the forgery business, is how far Mossad has succeeded in using the forged documents to penetrate the Arab World. The Sunday Times did in fact bring to the surface at least two operations mounted by Mossad using the forged passports: a 1973 raid on a PLO base in Beirut and a 1979 car explosion in Beirut which killed a senior PLO official. From the very dates of the operations, it appears that Israel had been in the forgery business for more than 14 years. It is anybody's guess how far Israel has managed in these years to expand its secret networks in Arab countries. While we cannot hold Britain solely responsible for what might have happened, we think it is only fair that London release to the concerned countries, on a government-to-government basis at least, the precise details available to British intelligence about the Israeli use of the forged documents, in order to repair damages.

Furthermore, if London does not take decisive action against Israel in this regard, rather than forgetting the whole business with the Israeli "apology," it would only encourage the Jewish state's arrogance and feeling of impunity from the West. The ball is clearly still in the British court; let us watch and see how the game develops.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Revealing facts, figures

PRIME Minister Zaid Rifai in his Jordan Television interview on Saturday gave facts and figures about Jordan's economy and pointed out the sound policies which Jordan has followed in order to lessen the consequences of the current world economic recession on the Kingdom. The prime minister referred among other things to gross national product which increased by 3.7 per cent in 1986 against, a drop in production at the rate of 3.2 in the previous year. He also referred to liquidity which also increased by 10.5 per cent in 1986 but did not exceed 6.6 per cent in 1985. The prime minister referred also to the deposits in local banks and the credit facilities these banks offer to the private sector and the increase of expatriates' transfers to Jordan by JD 13 million over the past year. The expatriates have displayed their total confidence in their country's economic performance and economic stability and future. These figures reflect the fact that the national economy is sound and safe, despite the loans which the country obtains now and then to finance national projects. All these facts and figures point to the fact that the country will witness more prosperity that will benefit all Jordanian citizens.

Al Dustour: Iranian aggression continue

THE Iranians are now making preparations for launching yet another aggression on Iraq and at the same time deploying missiles in areas overlooking the Gulf to launch attacks on oil tankers and other ships in the area. This new escalation of the tension in the Gulf region is a new development in the course of the six year old conflict and indicates that the Iranian regime plans to pave the way for interference by foreign nations in the Gulf region, something which Arab states in the Gulf have been trying to avoid at all costs. By deploying the missiles, Iran is opening the door for foreign powers to interfere militarily in the region and to further complicate the situation. Any foreign power wishing to interfere would claim that its action is designed to ensure the continued flow of oil to the rest of the world. Therefore, we consider Iran's escalation of the tension as a means and attempt to escape the consequences of defeat in the battlefield and their threats of using the missiles against international shipping points to the fact that the Iranians expect another ignominious defeat in the coming battle east of Basra.

Sawt Al Shaab: Israel steps up Judaisation

A decision by Israel's minister of energy to liquidate the Arab Jerusalem district electricity company is another link of long series of actions designed to Judaize the holy city and swallow up Arab rights and land. This step follows another previous decision which declared that parts of the lands around Ramallah, Al Bireh, Bethlehem and Beit Sahour will be annexed by the Israeli authorities and clearly points to Israel's determination to make the annexation of Jerusalem and its surrounding areas a final act. Israel, through its annexation of Arab land hopes to impose a de facto situation and abort all bids towards establishing a lasting peace with the Arabs. Israel has been going ahead with plans to annex Arab land and seizing Arab institutions ever since its occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in 1967, and the new programme of annexation is part of an overall policy based on a Zionist strategy designed to evict the Arabs from their homeland. The latest Israeli move is designed to abort all international efforts for establishing peace and implementation of the U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

'Foreign parties' blamed for Muslim-Christian friction in Egypt

By Dalia Baligh
The Associated Press

BENI SUEF, Egypt — Muslim and Coptic Christian leaders here are trying to block rumour-mongering in an effort to preserve the delicate sectarian balance and avoid violence between the groups.

"There are very bad things happening here," said Father Yoakim, an assistant to the Coptic bishop of Beni Suef. He said Muslim and Coptic leaders were holding public meetings to fight the spread of rumours, which have led to violence in recent weeks.

On Feb. 25-26, rumours sent hundreds of Muslim fundamentalist university students rioting through Beni Suef, a provincial capital 120 kilometres south of Cairo. The rumour said Coptic girls were spraying the veils of Muslim girls with an American-made substance that caused dozens of tiny crosses to appear when the veils were washed.

The same rumour has circulated in other southern towns. The rioters in Beni Suef looted at least a dozen Christian-owned shops. Afterward, rumours about a rape circulated among Coptic Christians, spawning threats of retribution against Muslims from some in the small Coptic community.

Muslims in Sobag, 290 kilometres southeast of Beni Suef, accused Christians of setting fire to a mosque, ignoring government assurances that the fire was an accident. Rioters responded by burning down one church and trying to destroy another.

Officials said the rumour caused a window-smashing rampage by students early in March at Al-Fayoum, a western desert oasis just northwest of Beni Suef. The state-owned newspaper Al-Akhbar said none of the 46 students arrested could substantiate the rumour.

Trouble has arisen occasionally since the late 18th century between Egypt's Muslims, who number about 45 million, and the 6 million Copts. Until the early 1900s, Egyptian nationalists often blamed it on French, Turkish and British colonisers pursuing a "divide and rule" policy.

State-owned media usually treat communal strife with great caution, but since the southern riots, columnists have warned against rumours said to be spread by unnamed foreign parties seeking to inflame sectarian feelings.

Yussef Wali, a deputy prime minister, included such a warning in a campaign speech for next month's parliamentary elections, indicating how seriously government views the problem.

"Muslim and Coptic leaders say foreign elements are trying to generate sectarian strife. They do not say why."

"These are isolated incidents and have no connection with the Islamic groups," said Gaber Rizk, spokesman in Cairo for the Muslim Brotherhood. "They are suspect incidents, as if there is a plot by hidden hands to stir up sectarianism."

Rizk's organisation is fundamentalist, but comparatively moderate. Father Yoakim said he believed the rumours of sectarian incidents were started by "foreign parties."

The last serious sectarian trouble occurred in 1981 at Al-Zawya Al-Hamra, a working-class district of Cairo, when an argument between Muslim and Christian housewives ballooned into widespread violence that killed at least 10 people. The women, tenement dwellers, had quarreled because one's washing dripped water onto the other's balcony.

Rumours flew through the district, inciting residents on both sides.

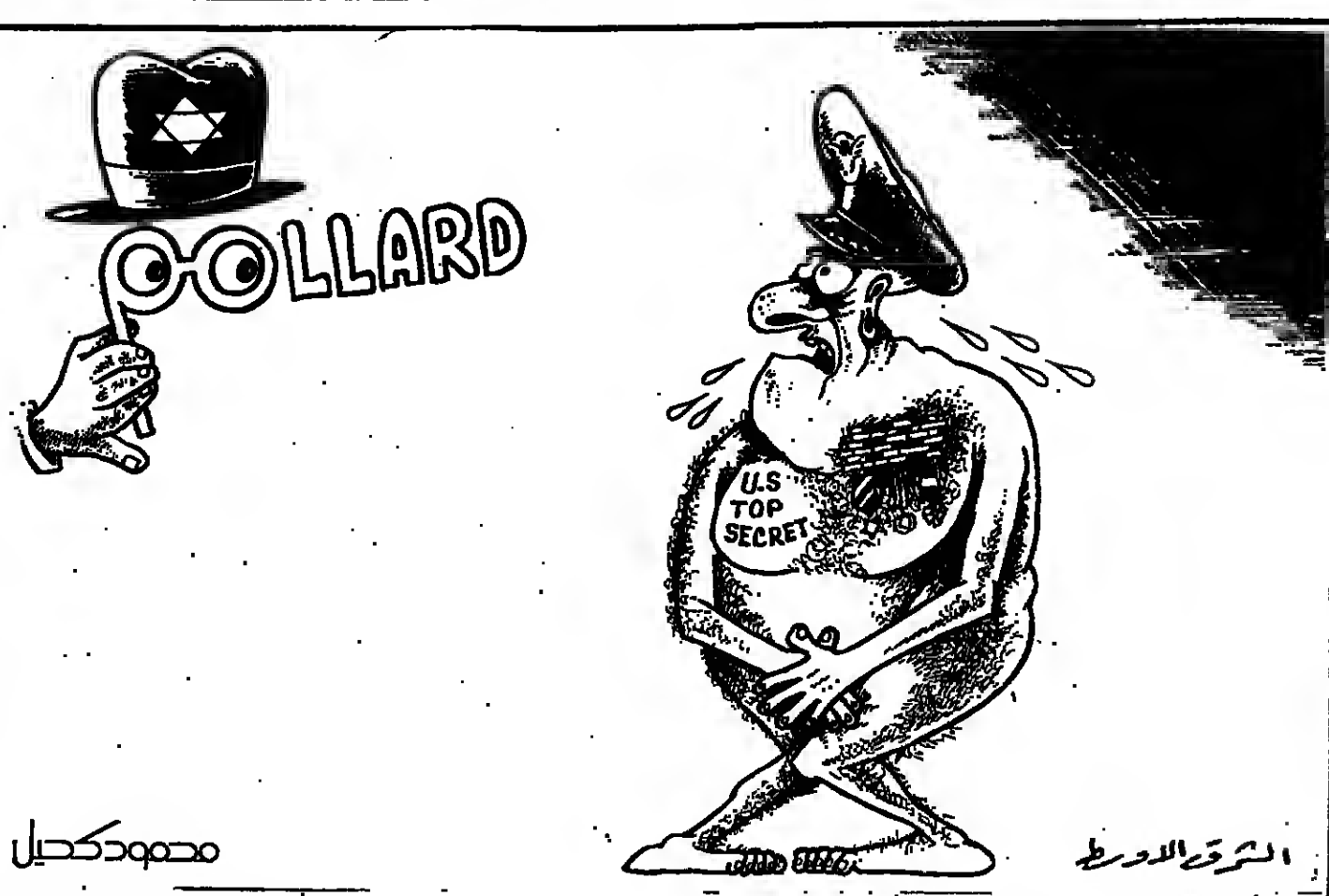
Visitors in recent months to the southern capitals of Assiut and Minya, both south of Beni Suef, reported tension between Muslim and Christian inhabitants.

Life appears normal in Beni Suef, with horse-drawn carriages filling the streets, but a sense of forbidding lies just below the surface.

"My shop was burned down," said Tadoros Nan Tadoros, a Christian carpet dealer. "Now I am afraid to try and fix it in case someone burns it down again."

Abdul Ghafar Al Bahnasawy, a Muslim neighbour, blamed the tension on fundamentalists.

"What has happened to my Coptic brothers pains me," he said, "and it is wrong."



Alleged 'note from dictator' no longer needed

By James H. Rubin
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Tens of thousands of aliens, who claim they are fleeing oppression in their homelands may no longer need "a note from their dictator" that human rights groups claimed was needed to get political asylum in the United States.

The supreme court said that aliens need only show "well-founded fear" of persecution to be granted residency.

"The administration (of President Ronald Reagan) must be stunned," said Arthur Helton of the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights in New York City. "It will be a quite significant decision. Over time you will see increasing numbers" being granted asylum.

Verne Jervis, a spokesman for the U.S. Immigration and Naturalisation Service, sought to minimise the importance of the ruling.

"The bottom line is we expect a somewhat higher (asylum) approval rate, but not substantially higher," he said. The supreme court ruled last week that refugees who say they face imprisonment, torture and even death in their native land need only show a well-founded fear of persecution to win asylum. The court rejected the administration's argument that refugees prove "a clear probability" they face harsh retaliation before they are allowed to remain in the United States.

Human rights groups said the administration has been trying to hold asylum applicants to an unreasonable standard — demanding "a note from their dictator" to support a claim of persecution.

"The majority of asylum applicants can offer only their own testimony that there are specific, concrete reasons giving rise to their fear of persecution," the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights said in a legal brief.

"Their persecutors are unlikely to accommodate them by providing documentary evidence of past or contemplated future persecution," the committee said.

But the organisation noted that various agencies such as Amnesty International and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees can help substantiate the claims.

Helton said that in the 12-month period ending last Oct. 1 there were nearly 30,000 asylum applications made to regional immigration and naturalisation service offices and immigration administrative judges.

The service said it lacks complete figures because it does not tabulate the number of asylum

applications to Administrative Judges. The application process typically takes from one to three years to complete, so it may be a while before the effects of the ruling are apparent. In the interim, most refugees remain at liberty in the United States, although some have been kept in detention facilities.

Helton said the impact of the court decision may be far broader. Some 70,000 immigrants who first were granted asylum in other nations also were admitted to this country last year.

That total probably will not be affected by last week's decision. But who is included among the next annual group of 70,000 refugees from other nations granting asylum could be influenced by the decision.

The government generally has looked more favourably on people fleeing Communist governments than right-wing governments, and that policy likely will continue under Reagan.

Some immigration lawyers worry that the immigration service will find new reasons to limit asylum.

They note that the law interpreted by the supreme court last week gives considerable discretion to immigration officials. "We're cautiously optimistic,"

said Susan M. Lydon, who handles immigration cases in California.

"We feel the ruling gives people applying for asylum with a meritorious case a foothold... a place to start," she said. "We also are realistic. There may be more denials based on other factors."

But human rights groups hope the supreme court decision, interpreting a 1980 federal law in a sympathetic manner for refugees, will be a barrier against other efforts by the administration to restrict immigration.

They note that Justice Harry Blackmun, in a concurring opinion, attacked the immigration service for "seemingly purposeful blindness" in adopting a standard that dealt too harshly with refugees.

The court acted in the case of Luz Marina Cardoza-Fonseca, 38, who came to the United States from Nicaragua in 1979. She said she faces persecution by the Sandinistas because her brother, a one-time ally of the Sandinistas, denounced the leftist government and fled to the United States.

She still faces further hearings before the U.S. Board of Immigration appeals, which now must examine her plea for asylum under the court's liberalised standard.

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سكنا من الجبل

Actress Jean Simmons content with an occasional role

By John Pine
Reuters

SANTA MONICA, California — Almost the only way to see Jean Simmons these days is to turn on the television.

After 45 prolific years in films, television and the theatre the English-born actress spends most of her time in the house that she has lovingly renovated for the past eight years.

She has surrounded herself with antique furniture and photographs of her family and co-stars. Simmons has no projects in the works, and could not tell you how many films she has made, nor even the name of her last one.

"Blimey, I don't remember ... I guess I should have written it down," Simmons, 58, told Reuters in an interview at her home.

"My business manager would rather I worked a little bit more, if I need another chair or something, but I'm quite content here," she said, wearing white pants and blouse and tennis shoes and smoking one of her ever-present cigarettes.

"If something lovely comes along, fine, but I'm not looking for it."

Qualifying as "lovely" was "December Flower," a Granada television production Simmons did two years ago in Britain and just aired on U.S. public television.

She also appeared in "Perry Mason: The Case of the Lost Love," playing a former girlfriend of the fictional lawyer. The television special revived the court room drama series that was a long-running success on U.S. television.

On television the same week was an old film, "Young Bess," in which Simmons portrayed Queen Elizabeth I, and a re-run of the mini-series "The Thorn Birds," for which she won an Emmy Award as the stern matriarch on an Australian sheep ranch.

Simmons first came to Hollywood soon after her 18th birthday on her way back from Fiji, where she starred in "The Blue Lagoon," after having portrayed Ophelia, which won her an Oscar

nomination, in Laurence Olivier's "Hamlet."

"For a Cockney kid from Cricklewood (on the outskirts of London) to suddenly find herself travelling all over the world was really very exciting," she said.

She returned to stay in 1950 with her first husband, actor Stewart Granger, and became a U.S. citizen when her first daughter,

in "The Actress," Olivier, Sean Connery and Burt Lancaster, among others.

Simmons, who made dozens of films including "Elmer Gantry," "Black Narcissus," "Guys and Dolls," "The Robe," "Spartacus" and "Angel Face," said the transition from leading lady to supporting actress was not a difficult one for her.

character roles now. I just fell into it, and there was no kind of trauma, agony or anything like that."

Her agent told Reuters Simmons did not want to discuss her six weeks of treatment for alcoholism at the Betty Ford centre near Palm Springs last year, but Simmons said the reason had nothing to do with embarrassment.

"I don't mind talking about it, really, it's just that everybody seems to be getting on the bandwagon," she said, explaining she thought it inappropriate for celebrities to seek publicity over such a private matter.

"But I have to tell you that it was one of the most wonderful experiences I have ever had."

Ironically, she noted, she received her second Oscar nomination for "The Happy Ending," a 1969 film about an alcoholic housewife that she made for her second husband, director Richard Brooks.

Simmons visits her sisters in England occasionally but said she could never leave California for good.

"My sisters live in Devon, which is a lovely county, and they make me sort of want to come home, but my home is here."

Simmons spends her time at home, where she has a swimming pool, jacuzzi, sauna and exercise room.

She lives with a housekeeper, a cat, and a recently acquired Akita puppy who does not like cats, and ventures out for alcoholic anonymous meetings, and for an occasional hamburger binge, complete with French fries.

After her second divorce, she bought this house, on a quiet street near the Pacific Ocean, with a fireplace in every room.

While she won't live in England again, she has reminders of home around her.

"What I'm into now is having tea parties on Sundays, with the cucumber sandwiches and the hot scones and the fresh cream, whipped, and wonderful jams and things," she said.

"What I find so funny is a lot of my friends are real macho type fellows, and they're all sitting around having tea."



Jean Simmons

CITIBANK سیتی بینک

AMMAN - JORDAN

BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS	1986	1985	LIABILITIES	1986	1985
	J. D.	J. D.		J. D.	J. D.
CASH AND DUE FROM BANKS	23,116,279	23,680,500	DEMAND DEPOSITS AND CURRENT ACCOUNTS		
INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO			LOCAL CURRENCY	1,472,822	1,688,502
GOVERNMENT BONDS AND TREASURY BILLS	2,636,094	2,830,108	FOREIGN CURRENCIES	1,657,343	1,419,305
EQUITY INVESTMENT	40,834	40,834	SAVING ACCOUNTS AND TIME DEPOSITS		
BILLS DISCOUNTED	284,391	319,175	LOCAL CURRENCY	8,295,868	9,788,592
ADVANCES TO CUSTOMERS	8,229,378	8,678,990	FOREIGN CURRENCIES	20,712,556	19,440,132
LOANS	8,981,514	9,296,891	DUE TO BANKS		
FIXED ASSETS NET OF ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION	370,298	423,102	LOCAL CURRENCY	0	484,000
OTHER ASSETS	501,632	883,310	FOREIGN CURRENCIES	552,054	1,862,746
TOTAL ASSETS	44,160,420	46,152,910	BORROWINGS FROM BANKS AND FINANCE COMPANIES	2,282,994	2,625,545
			CASH COLLATERAL	1,612,478	1,303,602
			ACCRUED LIABILITIES AND OTHER PROVISIONS	619,784	795,798
			OTHERS LIABILITIES	1,054,027	1,340,223
			PAID - UP CAPITAL	5,000,000	5,000,000
			STATUTORY RESERVE	662,963	582,716
			VOLUNTARY RESERVE	30,000	30,000
			RETAINED EARNINGS	207,531	(208,251)
			TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY CAPITAL	44,160,420	46,152,910
CONTRA ACCOUNTS					
LIABILITIES OF CUSTOMERS FOR DOCUMENTARY CREDITS	410,809	415,680	CONTRA ACCOUNTS		
LIABILITIES OF CUSTOMERS FOR GUARANTEES	25,931,701	38,628,763	BANK'S LIABILITIES FOR DOCUMENTARY CREDITS	410,809	415,680
LIABILITIES OF CUSTOMERS FOR OTHER LIABILITIES	28,000	271,635	BANK'S LIABILITIES FOR GUARANTEES	25,931,701	38,628,763
			BANK'S LIABILITIES FOR OTHER LIABILITIES	28,000	271,635

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND RETAINED EARNINGS

	1986	1985
	J. D.	J. D.
INCOME:		
INTEREST EARNED	3,644,476	4,249,744
COMMISSIONS	403,203	376,592
FOREIGN EXCHANGE INCOME	81,717	293,483
OTHER INCOME	18,412	17,967
TOTAL INCOME	4,147,808	4,937,786
EXPENSES:		
INTEREST PAID	2,506,269	3,158,959
GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	761,964	815,470
DEPRECIATION AND OTHER EXPENSES	77,104	79,799
TOTAL EXPENSES	3,345,337	4,054,228
NET INCOME BEFORE TAX	802,471	883,558
ADD: RETAINED EARNINGS—BROUGHT FORWARD	(208,251)	
NET INCOME AVAILABLE FOR APPROPRIATION	594,220	883,558
APPROPRIATIONS:		
STATUTORY RESERVE	80,247	88,355
PROVISION FOR INCOME TAX	251,084	264,220
INCOME TAX PAID FOR PRIOR YEARS	53,262	741,842
UNIVERSITIES' FEES	2,096	5,310
UNIVERSITIES' FEES ADJUSTMENT		(7,918)
RETAINED EARNINGS	207,531	(208,251)
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS	594,220	883,558

AUDITORS' REPORT

To Citibank, N.A.
Amman - Jordan

We have examined the balance sheet of CITIBANK, N.A. Amman, Jordan (a foreign shareholding company) as of December 31, 1986 and 1985 and the related statements of income and retained earnings and changes in financial position for the years then ended. Our examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and, accordingly, included such tests of the accounting records and such other auditing procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly the financial position of Citibank, N.A. Amman, Jordan as of December 31, 1986 and 1985 and the results of its operations and changes in its financial position for the years then ended in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles applied on a consistent basis.

SABA & CO.

Amman - Jordan
March 16, 1987

Aquino calls for greater use of airpower in fight against rebels

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — President Corason Aquino on Monday called for greater use of helicopter gunships and airborne troop carriers in operations against the rebels to reduce casualties among government soldiers.

"I have argued, almost nagged, for greater air mobility," she told about 500 military and civilian personnel at ceremonies marking the 25th anniversary of the Logistics Command.

Also Monday, the military reported that police fatally shot three Communist rebels during an abortive raid on a town hall some 40 kilometres north west of Manila.

Maj. Vidal Querol, operations chief for central Luzon, said a police detachment guarding the town hall of San Juan in Pangasinan province fired on about 15 New People's Army (NPA) guerrillas as they were preparing to attack Sunday night.

He said it was the second abortive attack on a town hall in the province in the past month. Maj. Querol said the Philippine Con-

stabulary, the national police, were stepping up security around public buildings in the province. Earlier this month, Chief of Staff Gen. Fidel Ramos said rebels were increasing attacks on town halls and other government centres at an "alarming rate" since the 60-day cease-fire expired on Feb. 8.

Military officials said at least 13 people were killed last weekend in rebel attacks throughout the country.

In her speech, Mrs. Aquino said, "I know that combat helicopters are not the ultimate solution to the insurgency nor even the last word in tactical advantage in a counterinsurgency."

But, she said, "speed saves lives and multiplies firepower. I will not gamble with the safety of our soldiers."

Pakistanis siphoned off Afghan aid money — report

NEW YORK (AP) — Pakistani middlemen may have siphoned off up to half the \$1.35 billion in covert U.S. aid sent to Afghan rebels since 1980, according to this week's edition of Newsweek magazine.

Quoting unnamed U.S. congressional sources, the weekly magazine said the loss of what may be between 30 per cent and 50 per cent of the money is due to the Central Intelligence Agency's (CIA) inability to audit the arms and ammunition reaching the Afghan, anti-Communist guer-

business (in Pakistan), one congressman is quoted as saying.

Andrew Eiva, a private Washington analyst, was quoted by Newsweek as saying that much of the U.S.-funded military hardware purchased for the rebels is ordered by a committee of Pakistani generals.

The magazine said that members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee staff, who have access to information about the leakage, put the amount closer to 50 per cent.

As a result, it said, Congress may decide to cut the \$670 million in aid the White House has requested for Pakistan in fiscal 1988, beginning Oct. 1.

'Mozambique has world's worst living conditions'

WASHINGTON (R) — Mozambique is the worst country in the world to live in while Switzerland is the best, according to a report published by a private group concerned about population and the quality of life.

Other countries with the poorest living conditions include Angola, Afghanistan, Chad, Mali, Ghana, Somalia, Niger, Burkina Faso, the Central African Republic, Zaire, Benin and Malawi, according to the human suffering index, a study prepared by the Population Crisis Committee.

The most comfortable countries to live in besides Switzerland were West Germany, Luxembourg, The Netherlands and the United States, according to the study.

Of the countries with the poorest rating, 24 are in Africa, and six are in Asia. None is in Europe or the Western Hemisphere.

Those with the best rating include 20 countries in Europe, Australia and New Zealand, Japan and Singapore, the United States, Canada, and Trinidad and Tobago.

The index considers inflation, labour force growth, growth of urban population, infant mortality, daily per capita calorie supply, access to clean drinking water, energy consumption, adult literacy rate, and personal freedom. The group, which advocates

family planning, said that while rapid population growth was one determinant of poor living conditions, it was not the sole factor. The 20 countries ranked in order of least human suffering were Switzerland, West Germany, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, the United States, Belgium, Canada, Austria, Denmark, Japan, Sweden, Britain, France, Norway, East Germany, New Zealand, Australia, Finland, Italy and Iceland.

The 20 countries in order of most human suffering were Mozambique, Angola, Afghanistan, Chad, Mali, Ghana, Somalia, Niger, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Zaire, Benin, Malawi, Guinea, Ethiopia, Togo, Nepal, Mauritania, Nigeria, and Kampuchea.

Israel was rated 32 on the human suffering index, which put it behind Cuba (31) but ahead of Portugal (33).

Mozambique was at 95 with the worst conditions and Switzerland at four with the best conditions.

Israel was classified in the moderate human suffering group of countries along with Kuwait (35), United Arab Emirates (40) and Lebanon (46).

Other Arab countries rated were put in the high human suffering category: North Yemen (78), South Yemen (74), Iraq (64), Syria (61), Saudi Arabia (56) and Egypt (55).

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
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HIDE THOSE CARDS!

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ 8 7 3
♥ 10 4
♦ A 5
♣ A K 9 7 3 2

WEST EAST
♠ J 10 6 4 ♠ K 9
♥ 7 5 ♥ A K 8 6 3 2
♦ 9 8 7 3 2 ♦ J 10
♣ Q 5 ♣ 10 6 4

SOUTH
♠ A Q 5 2
♥ Q 9 7
♦ K Q 6 4
♣ J 8

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass
2 NT Pass 3 NT Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♣

Take a cruise Down Under and you may get to play against Paul Marston, Australia's entry in Royal Viking Line's Player of the Year competition. A theorist who is a staunch believer in the new Strong Pass artificial systems, he is also a player of rare ability. Here is an example of his skill from the 1985 Australian National Open Teams Championship.

The bidding given is what might take place at a table where normal methods were employed.

Suffice it to say that Marston reached the same contract in his method where the only information available to the defenders was that South held at least 13 points and that North held a minimum of 11 with a six-card or longer club suit and no singleton.

Since the ten of hearts appeared in dummy, West's lead of the jack marked East with a six-card suit headed by the ace-king and probably the king of spades—West was unlikely to lead from a short suit if he held a possible entry in the king of spades. Therefore, declarer needed to develop two extra tricks without surrendering the lead. The only hope was an endplay.

East signalled on the jack of hearts and declarer won the queen. He crossed to the ace of diamonds and took a winning spade finesse. When he cashed the king-queen of diamonds he was interested to note that East shuffled a heart. Next came the jack of clubs, which forced West to cover, and the table's king won. A spade to the ace stripped East of his last safe exit card, and he was then presented with the lead in hearts.

The best East could do was to take his four heart tricks. Then he had to lead away from his ten of clubs into dummy's A-9 tenace to give declarer his contract.

for they left, he added.

"As far as I know none of the crew asked to defect. They were just a bunch of tired people very, very glad to be alive," he said.

The INS routinely interviews people who enter the United States under unusual circumstances.

"There had been plans for the Soviets to return and try to salvage the ship, but those plans have changed."

The ship had left Halifax, Nova Scotia, and was heading for Cuba with 10,292 tonnes of flour when its cargo suddenly shifted in 4.5 to 6 metres per hour, the Coast Guard said.

The crewmen were to leave for the Soviet Union on Tuesday, Willett said.

NEW YORK (R) — A Soviet ship that began listing sharply in heavy seas when its cargo shifted has sunk in 3,638 metres of water, a U.S. official has said.

All 37 crewmen of the 6,023-tonne Komsolets Kirovskiy were rescued unharmed by U.S. Coast Guard helicopters Saturday about 320 kilometres south of Cape Cod, Massachusetts.

The crewmen were first taken to Atlantic City, New Jersey, and then to a "Soviet recreational centre about 100 kilometres from Washington D.C. where they were given clothing, beds, food and so on," said Anthony Willett, spokesman for the Federal Aviation Administration.

The crewmen were interviewed by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalisation Service (INS) be-

fore they left, he added.

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